

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 09838 251058Z

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 /018 W

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P 250608Z JUL 78

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1973

UNCLAS HONG KONG 9838

FOR SY/MGT/EX FM RSS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: SEABEE RENTS AND UTILITIES

REF: (A) STATE 185999; (B) HONG KONG 09584; (C) HONG KONG 7845;
(D) 77 STATE 156723; (E) 77 HONG KONG 7344

1. AS YOU ARE AWARE, THE OIC/RTC WHO PREVIOUSLY HANDLED
THE SEABEE FUNDING MATTERS FOR HONG KONG DEPARTED POST ON
JUNE 20 1978, FOR TRANSFER TO THE DEPARTMENT. IN THIS
REGARD, IF THE FOLLOWING IS NOT CLEAR OR IF YOU FEEL IT
IS INCONSISTENT WITH SY RECORDS, YOU MAY WISH TO CLARIFY
IT BY CONTACTING JOHN BAGNAL IN SY/OPS/T. IT IS OUR
UNDERSTANDING FROM COLLATING THE INFORMATION IN THE AVAILABLE
FILES AND WITH THE HELP OF THE B&F OFFICE HERE THAT THE
YEARLY RENT UNDER THE LEASING AGREEMENT FOR THE SEABEE
QUARTERS IS PAID EACH AUG 1 (FOURTH QUARTER) FOR ONE
YEAR IN ADVANCE. REF C, DATED JUN 20 1978, (SUBJECT: FY-78
BUDGETING) REQUESTS THE OBLIGATION OF \$16,107 FOR THE SEABEE
RENT WHICH WILL BE PAID AUG 1979 FOR THE LEASE YEAR
AUG 79-80. REF E, DATED 6/27/77, PARA 2, REQUESTED
THE AMOUNT OF \$15,175 BE OBLIGATED FOR FY-78 TO BE PAID
IN AUG 78 FOR LEASE YEAR AUG 78-AUG 79. THE RTC
RECORDS HAVE BEEN REVIEWED AND FAIL TO DISCLOSE ANY
RESPONSE FROM SY/EX IN REGARD TO REF E ABOVE. PLS
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ADVISE ON AN EXPEDITIOUS BASIS AS THE RENT MUST BE PAID
ON AUG 1 1978.

2. MORE SEABEE MATTERS - THE RTC HAS NOT HEARD FROM SY/MGT/EX
ON THE REQUESTS FOR REUPHOLSTERY AND NEW DRAPERY AND MANY
OTHER ITEMS WHICH ARE OVERDUE FOR REPLACEMENT FOR THE SEABEE
QUARTERS. AS THIS MATTER HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF SEVERAL

CABLES AND LETTERS DATING BACK TO DEC 1977, THE RSS
SUGGESTS TO AVOID THIS COMMUNICATION GAP THAT ALL MONETARY
SUPPORT FOR THE SEABEE RENT AND FURNISHINGS BE NEGOTIATED
BETWEEN SY AND THE REGIONAL BUREAU IN THE DEPARTMENT AND
REIMBURSEMENT BE ROUTINELY HANDLED IN THAT MANNER. THE
DISPERSING OF THREE SEABEES FROM THE RTC HONG KONG PERHAPS
DOES NOT LEND ITSELF TO THE FORMER SUPPORT PROCEUDRES. AS
YOU ARE AWARE THIS MAY THE HONG KONG SEABEE MARRIED A STATE
DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE, AND DUE TO THE NON-RESPONSE FROM SY,
THE RSS TURNED TO THE POST FOR MAINTENANCE TYPE SUPPORT
BASED ON RIGHTS OF THE SEABEE WIFE AS A STATE DEPARTMENT
EMPLOYEE. THE POST HAS AGREED TO REFURBISH THE FURNITURE
AND RUGS IN THE SEABEE QUARTERS. THIS AD HOC ARRANGEMENT
HELPS THE CURRENT SEABEE'S SITUATION BUT ASSUMING THE
NEXT SEABEE DOES NOT HAVE A STATE DEPARTMENT WORKING WIFE,
THE PROBLEMS WILL AGAIN OCCUR OF HAVING TO ASK SY FOR
SUPPORT. THE RSS IS NOT AWARE OF THE FULL REASONS FOR THE
UNIQUE SUPPORT ARRANGEMENT FOR THE RTC SEABEE BUT AGAIN
VENTURES THE PROPOSAL THAT SINCE THE FURNITURE MAINTENANCE
AND LEASING IS IN FACT HANDLED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION
WOULDNT IT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE ADMIN OFFICER TO SIMPLY
INCLUDE IN HIS ANNUAL BUDGE THESE EXPENSES AND ROUTINELY
SEEK REIMBURSEMENT FROM SY THROUGH REGIONAL BUREAU ACCOUNTING
CHANNELS.

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